Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112926 ORIGIN OES-07

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UNCLAS STATE 112926

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, MX

SUBJECT: R/V ALASKA CLEARANCE REQUEST, 21 AUG - 8 SEPT 1978

- 1. R/V ALASKA, A PUBLIC VESSEL OPERATED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT FISHERIES RESEARCH IN MEXICAN WATERS. THE RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN SANTA ROSALIA BAY AND POINT CONCEPTION AND WILL INVOLVE THE STUDY OF ANCHOVIES. THE STRENGTH OF THE 1978 YEAR CLASS OF NORTHERN ANCHOVIES WILL BE ASSESSED AS WELL AS THE AGE AND SIZE COMPOSITION OF OTHER SPECIES INCLUDING PACIFIC MACKEREL, PACIFIC SARDINES AND JACK MACKEREL.
- 2. QUANTITATIVE MIDWATER TRAWL TOWS WITH A 15-M SQUARE NET WILL BE MADE AT 5 MILE INTERVALS OVER BOTTOM DEPTHS OF 18 TO 90 M. TOWS WILL BE OF 10 MINUTES DURATION AND CONDUCTED ONLY AT NIGHT. THE VOLUME OF EACH ANCHOVY CATCH WILL BE MEASURED AND THE NUMBER OF FISH CAPTURED WILL BE ESTIMATED. AGE-LENGTH DATA WILL BE COLLECTED UNCLASSIFIED

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WITH THE PURPOSE OF ACCURATELY ESTIMATING THE NUMBERS

AND WEIGHT OF 1978 YEAR CLASS ANCHOVIES PER TOW. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE ADDED TO OUR DATA BASE OF PREVIOUS

YEAR CLASSES SIMILARLY SURVEYED DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF LIFE. THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF NEWLY RECRUITED YEAR

CLASSES WILL BE USED TO PREDICT MAJOR FLUCTUATIONS IN THE ANCHOVY POPULATION SIZE.

3. ITINERARY:

DEPART SAN PEDRO - AUGUST 21 DEPART ENSENADA - AUGUST 22 SURVEY DEPART ENSENADA - AUGUST 30 SURVEY THROUGH SEPT 8

A SHIP'S TRACK IS BEING POUCHED.

- 4. R/V ALASKA IS 100 FT. LONG, 172 NET TONS, RADIO CALL SIGN IS WA 2114, AND SHIP MONITORS EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES.
- 5. SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS RALPH RODRIGUEZ WITH A CREW OF 9. TWO BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS AND ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE FREELY SHARED. CHIEF SCIENTIST IS K. F. MAIS.
- 6. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR R/V ALASKA TO CONDUCT FISHERIES RESEARCH IN MEXICAN WATERS DURING PERIOD 21 AUG 8 SEPT 1978. CHRISTOPHER

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